

DRAFT  
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APPENDIX III - NOAA Motorboat Inspection

**SECTION A. INTRODUCTION.**

.01 Inspection requirements for NOAA motorboats and Small Research Vessels will vary according to the evaluation of risk inherent in the operation of each vessel. However, there are minimum inspection requirements and specific standards that all vessels must meet. The purpose of this Appendix is to outline these minimum inspection requirements and safety standards, and to define the administrative procedures of the inspection process.

.02 The NOAA Small Boat Inspection Program is designed to ensure standards of safety are maintained at an acceptable level in order to best minimize risk.

.03 Inspection program requirements are based upon current and recognized marine regulatory policy, and established good marine practices.

**SECTION B. RESPONSIBILITY.**

.01 The OMAO Small Boat Coordinator is responsible for the management of an inspection system for all NOAA Class II and III motorboats, and Small Research Vessels.

.02 Senior Field Managers are responsible for participating in the inspection system.

**SECTION C. INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS.**

.01 Timing. NOAA motorboats and SRVs shall be inspected as follows:

- a. Small Research Vessels - Annually by OMAO Fleet Inspection Team.
- b. Class III Motorboats - As required by the Vessel Operations Manual or as requested by the Senior Field Manager, but at least triennially by the OMAO Fleet Inspection Team.
- c. Class II Motorboats - As required by the Vessel Operations Manual or Program Vessel Policy or as requested by the Senior Field Manager but at least triennially by the OMAO Fleet Inspection Team or a qualified third party as defined in Section C.01d.1 through C.01d.3 below.
- d. Class I and A motorboats - Annually in accordance with vessel

specific attribute lists developed as part of the Program Vessel Policy by either:

1. An accredited or certified marine safety professional (example - licensed marine engineer or marine surveyor), or
2. A commonly recognized marine safety authority (example - USCG Auxiliary Inspector, US Power Squadron Inspector), or
3. A designated and appropriately trained government employee granted all rights of an inspector and with direct access to the highest level of field management, or
4. The OMAO Fleet Inspection team when the Fleet Inspectors have scheduled an inspection at a site that operates motorboats or SRVs requiring an OMAO inspection and ample time to conduct the inspections is scheduled prior to the arrival of the inspection team.

.02 Inspection Anniversary. All motorboats shall be inspected within a time window of at least 6 weeks prior to, or 4 ½ months after, the anniversary date of the previous inspection.

.03 Scheduling Inspection. Prior to each motorboat or SRV inspection, the OMAO Small Boat Coordinator will contact the Responsible Person of the vessel to be inspected to schedule a mutually acceptable date and time of inspection. Approximately 1 month before the agreed upon inspection date, written notification of the intended inspection shall be forwarded to the Senior Field Manager responsible for the vessel. A copy of the inspection announcement along with an inspection attribute list will be forwarded to the Senior Field Manager.

.04 Inspection Procedure.

a. Inspection Attribute List. An inspection attribute list, detailing areas and items to be inspected as identified in an operational risk management plan, will be forwarded to the vessel operator prior to the Inspector's arrival on board. It is felt that in this way, the Senior Field Manager on site will know what to expect and will be able to prepare the vessel for inspection. Assistance in developing attribute lists may be obtained from the OMAO Small Boat Coordinator upon request.

b. Post-inspection Critique. Following the completion of the on-board inspection, the Inspector will brief the Senior Field Manager and Responsible Person on the findings of the inspection.

c. Inspection Report. A written report of the findings of the inspection will be sent within 10 business days to the appropriate Line Office Deputy Assistant Administrator and the Senior Field Manager. The report will detail areas of deficiency and will consist

of only those items previously discussed in the post-inspection critique.

d. Response. The Senior Field Manager will file a written response indicating corrective action taken or anticipated with respect to items listed in the inspection report within 10 business days after receipt of the inspection report. The response shall be written to the Director, NOAA Corps, and forwarded to the Small Boat Coordinator (OMAOx3) and the Chief, Fleet Inspection Office (OMAOx5).

#### **SECTION D. MOTORBOAT INSPECTION CRITERIA.**

.01 Hulls. The material condition and watertight integrity of vessel hulls, weather decks, and watertight bulkheads shall be maintained in the condition for which they were originally intended. Any modification, penetration, or repair of these areas shall include adequate measures to ensure that the vessel's original condition of watertight integrity is retained.

a. Hull Fittings. Watertight doors and hatches and their associated equipment shall be kept in a state of preservation which ensures their suitability for the maintenance of watertight integrity.

b. Ventilation Ducts and Gooseneck Vents. Ventilation ducts and gooseneck vents of greater than 2 ½ inch diameter which penetrate the weather deck shall be provided with a positive means of closure to prevent flooding of the vessel's interior. Covers and their fastening devices shall be attached to or stowed immediately adjacent to each such vent opening.

.02 Propulsion and Electrical Installations. The scope of the inspection shall include an examination of propulsion and electrical installations. Minimum inspection criteria for these items are promulgated by the American Boat and Yacht Council publication "Standards and Technical Information Reports for Small Craft. Motorboat-specific guidance based on these standards may be obtained by contacting the Marine Engineering Division Small Boat Engineer at Marine Operations Center-Pacific (Seattle), or Marine Operations Center-Atlantic (Norfolk). Other inspection criteria may be applied based upon the operational risk assessment. Programs are encouraged to visit the American Boat and Yacht Council website (<http://www.abyc.com>) to purchase applicable publications.

.03 Equipment. Table I - Minimum Small Boat Safety Equipment, lists the minimum required safety equipment that must be on board, and maintained in a ready and serviceable condition, before any small boat is operated. This table of required equipment is not intended to over ride or supercede the placement of additional equipment required to be on board as directed by an operational risk management plan.

a. Emergency Equipment. All lifesaving and firefighting equipment shall be of United States Coast Guard approved and/or SOLAS approved type when applicable. If SOLAS approval is not applicable then the emergency equipment shall be United States Coast Guard Approved.

b. Other Equipment. Other Equipment specified in Table I shall be U.S. Coast Guard approved, if U.S. Coast Guard Standards are applicable to the equipment specified.

c. Communication and Navigation Electronics. Table II lists the minimum required communication and navigation electronic equipment that must be on board, and maintained in a ready and serviceable condition, before any small boat is operated. This table of required equipment is not intended to over ride or supercede the placement of additional equipment required to be on board as directed by an operational risk management plan.

.04 Drills. Inspectors may, depending on nature of vessel operations or complexity, require an underway demonstration of mission operations or emergency responses to fire, flooding, collision, man overboard, or abandon ship procedures.

.05 Records. Records, including but not limited to the following, may be examined by the inspection team:

- a. operational risk management plans;
- b. vessel alterations;
- c. weight and moment management;
- d. mission modifications; or
- e. operator training and certification documents.

## **SECTION E. ATTACHMENTS.**

Table 1.0 - Minimum Required Small Boat Safety Equipment.

Table 2.0 - Minimum Required Small Boat Communications and Navigation Electronics Equipment.